

Appln. No.: 10/715,809
Amendment Dated June 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2006

KSI-325US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 2, 7-10, 12-17, 20, and newly added claims 22-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-6, 11, 18-19, and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter disclosed therein. New claims 22-33 are supported by the originally filed application at, for example: page 6, paragraph 21 (claims 22 & 25-26); pages 7-8, paragraph 25 (claim 23); pages 6-7, paragraph 23 (claim 24); pages 9-10, paragraph 30 (claim 27); page 3, paragraph 8 (claim 28); pages 5-6, paragraph 20 (claim 29); page 9, paragraph 29 & Figs. 6A-6B (claim 30); page 9, paragraph 29 & original claim 12 (claim 31); and page 10, paragraph 31 & original claim 18 (claims 32-33). No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10-15, 18, and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,432). Claims 2, 4, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of Kinnaid (U.S. Patent No. 5,839,640). Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of Koseki (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,307).

Claim 16 has been allowed.

Claim 19 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 has been amended to include the features of claim 19 and intervening claim 18. As such, claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 7-9, 12-15, 17, and 20 depend from allowable claim 10, either directly or indirectly, and as such, are in condition for allowance.


Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the opportunity afforded to Applicants' representative (Christopher Spletzer) to participate in a personal interview with the Examiner on June 13, 2006. During the interview, a proposed new independent claim 22 (which is the same as new claim 22) was discussed. During the interview it was agreed that new claim 22 overcomes the previously cited prior art. Thus, absent any additional prior art being located during a further search, claim 22 is in condition for allowance. Claims 23-33 depend from claim 22, either directly or indirectly, and as such, are also in condition for allowance.

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Accordingly, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone in order to advance allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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CMS/tmb

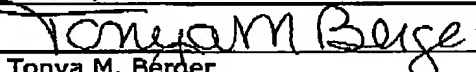
Dated: June 15, 2006

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 50-3643 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (571)273-8300 on the date shown below.

June 15, 2006


Tonya M. Berger